

REMARKS UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

Formal Matters

Claims 17-22 are pending after entry of the amendments set forth herein.

By this Preliminary Amendment, the specification has been amended to include a cross-reference to related applications, claims 1-16 and 23-29 have been cancelled and claims 17, 19 and 21 have been amended. The amendments to the claims are supported throughout the specification. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments.

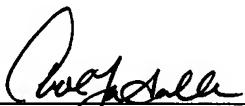
Conclusion

Applicants submit that all of the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested. If the Examiner finds that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extensions of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0815, order number LIFE-047DIV.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: 2/19/04

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